STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL
OF THE N.W.T.

Annual Report 1990-91

93-01416/

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NWT Status of Women Council members and staff at Council meeting in Iqaluit, October 1990

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Status of Women Council of the N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9
403-920-6177

May, 1991

Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Government of the N.W.T.
Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

Dear Ms. Marie-Jewell,

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report of the Status of Women Council of the N.W.T. for the year ending March 31, 1991.

As this has been the first year of the Council's existence, there have been many organizational tasks to take care of. The Council has also begun a number of important initiatives, which we believe will lead to improvements in the lives of N.W.T. women.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members and the staff of the Council for their hard work and dedication during the past year. It has been an honour for me to work with them as President of the Council.

On behalf of the Council, I would also like to thank you for your continuing support and encouragement to us throughout the year.

Sincerely,

MK Richardson

Mary Koyina-Richardson
Past President

Recycled Paper

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MARY KOYINA-RICHARDSON
President
Box 31, Rae/Edzo,
N.W.T., X0E 0Y0
(403) 392-6082 (work)
(403) 371-3126 (home)

RITA AREY
Vice-President
Box 183, Aklavik,
N.W.T., X0E 0A0
(403) 978-2935 (work)
(403) 978-2637 (home)

BERNADETTE MAKPAH
Vice-President
Box 227, Rankin Inlet,
N.W.T., X0C 0G0
(819) 645-2581 (work)
(819) 645-2102 (home)

SUSAN SAMMONS
Box 1264, Iqaluit,
N.W.T., X0A 0H0
(819) 979-4431 (work)
(819) 979-6387 (home)

SHIRLEY BATON
General Delivery,
Fort Franklin, N.W.T.
(403) 589-3391 (work)

SISTER AGNES SUTHERLAND
Box 718, Fort Smith,
N.W.T., X0E 0P0
(403) 872-3223 (home)

REBECCA KUDLOO
Box 14, Baker Lake,
N.W.T., X0C 0A0
(819) 793-2803 (work)
(819) 793-2942 (home)

HELEN TOLOGANAK
Box 34, Cambridge Bay,
N.W.T., X0E 0C0
(403) 983-2906 (work)

L. FAY WILLIAMS
Interim President
April-July, 1990
113 Banke Cres.,
Yellowknife,
N.W.T., X1A 2N5
(403) 920-3539 (work)
(403) 873-9410 (home)

LYNN BROOKS
Executive Director
Box 1320, Yellowknife,
N.W.T., X1A 2L9
Phone (403) 920-6177
Fax (403) 873-0285

B A C K G R O U N D

The Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories came into being in April, 1990, following the passage of the *Status of Women Council Act* by the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly. The Status of Women Council replaced the N.W.T. Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which had been in existence from 1983 to March, 1990. The new legislation gives the Status of Women Council increased powers to work towards the equality of women in the N.W.T. The Government of the Northwest Territories supports the operating costs of the Council through an annual contribution of funds.

The mandate of the Council is to work towards the equality of women in the N.W.T. through advice to the Territorial Government, research, public education, advocacy on behalf of women, and assistance to women's groups.

Under the legislation, the Council may have up to nine members. In April, 1990, nine women were appointed by the Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. After the resignation of Fay Williams from the Council in October, 1990, the number of members remained at eight for the remainder of the fiscal year. Ms. Williams played an important role as Interim President of the Council from April until July, 1990.

The Council has a staff of four and an office located in space provided by the Women's Directorate of the Government of the N.W.T. in Yellowknife. The staff members are:

- Lynn Brooks, Executive Director
- Theresa Handley, Administrative Assistant
- Marsha Argue, Researcher
- Diane Mahoney, Community Worker

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of Mary McCreadie, former Community Worker, and Ruth Kaluraq, former Administrative Assistant, both of whom went on to other tasks during 1990/91.

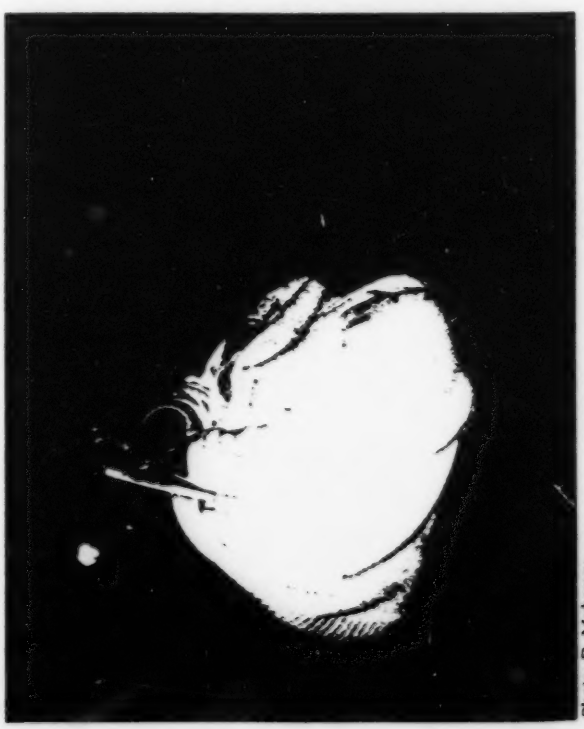

Photo: D. Mahoney

The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, attended the N.W.T. Status of Women Council public meeting in Fort Smith, February, 1991.

M E E T I N G S

The Council met in Yellowknife in early May and late June, 1990, in Iqaluit in October, 1990, and in Fort Smith in February, 1991. Public meetings were held at the same time in Iqaluit and Fort Smith. The Council members also met with the Baffin Women's Association and the Taqutit Inuit Women's Group while in Iqaluit, and with the President of the Native Women's Association of the N.W.T., Helen Hudson-MacDonald, in Fort Smith. In addition the Council met with staff and clients at the women's shelters in both communities.

Council members and staff maintained on-going contact with local women's groups, and Territorial and national women's organizations. In addition, members and/or staff participated in a number of conferences and meetings during 1990/91 including:

May 1990
- Western Judicial Conference, Lake Louise, Alberta
- Colloque des Femmes, Yellowknife

June 1990
- Brief to Conrad Inquiry, Yellowknife

September 1990
- Brief to Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, and participation in Round Table, Yellowknife
- Pauktuutit Day Care Workshop, Inuvik
- Take Back The Night March, Yellowknife
- Western Judicial Education Conference Consultation, Yellowknife

October 1990
- Women Managing For Success Conference, Yellowknife
- Federal Interdisciplinary Consultation on Wife Assault, Yellowknife

November 1990
- Pauktuutit Day Care Workshop, Iqaluit
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils meeting, Banff
- Aboriginal Women and Mental Health Symposium, Yellowknife
- National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada Conference, Ottawa
- Women and Substance Abuse Workshop, National Addictions Awareness Week, Yellowknife

December 1990
- Consultation with officials of the Solicitor General's office on "Policing 2000" document, Yellowknife
- Communication on Pornography, St. Patrick's High School, Yellowknife

January 1991
- Elders and Crime Conference, Toronto
- National Symposium on Women and the Criminal Justice System Regional Consultation, Vancouver

February 1991
- Sylvia Farrant, Vice-President, Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Katherine Peterson, Special Advisor on Gender Equality
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association Annual General Meeting, Rankin Inlet

March 1991
- Secretary of State forum on long-term planning, Calgary
- International Women's Day events, several communities
- N.W.T. Day Care Workers Conference, Yellowknife
- Consultation on group treatment programs for batterers, Yellowknife

I N I T I A T I V E S

Violence
Violence continues to be the number one concern of many women in the N.W.T. The Council believes the problem of violence includes all forms of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse of women, children, the elderly and the disabled.

Council members have been actively involved with community initiatives around violence in their home communities, and Council staff have worked closely with other government and community-based organizations to address in particular the issues of wife abuse and child sexual abuse. The Council has also been actively involved in promoting victim assistance services and in the planning for a Northern Victims Assistance Conference in 1992. Council staff have carried out research on help available to victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse in the N.W.T., and on the issue of group treatment programs for batterers; research into the effects of wife abuse on children in the family is underway. The Council is also planning to produce television public awareness ads regarding the abuse of women, children, and elders.

Criminal Justice System
The Council was very vocal during 1990/91 on issues related to the response of the justice system to women and children who are victims of violence. Some issues raised include sentencing practices, the treatment of victim witnesses, and attitudes of people working in the justice system. In June 1990, the Council submitted a brief on gender and cultural bias to the Conrad Inquiry investigating remarks on sexual assault made by a Territorial Court Judge. In February 1991 the Council began a major research project into gender bias in the foundations of our legal system; this project will be completed in late 1991. Council staff have participated on the advisory committee for the sexual assault sentencing study of the Department of Justice; we are still awaiting a final report on this study. The Council has also provided input into the planning for the women's correctional facility in Fort Smith.

Community Worker Program
The Council employs a Community Worker whose primary role is to support the empowerment of women at the community level through workshops and information. Although this position was vacant for part of the year, during 1990/91 workshops were held with women from Cambridge Bay, Yellowknife and Norman Wells. The Community Worker was also involved in the planning and delivery of workshops on violence for people working in the justice system, and for workers of the Roman Catholic Diocese of the Mackenzie. The Community Worker also facilitated planning workshops for the Status of Women Council and for the Board of Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society. Ongoing contact was maintained with women's groups in many N.W.T. communities, and information on issues and on International Women's Day was sent to many women's groups and individuals. During the latter part of the fiscal year, detailed planning was done for workshops to be delivered to women's groups in Baker Lake, Fort Franklin, and Iqaluit in the spring of 1991.

The expansion of the Community Worker program is a Council priority. The Council is actively exploring ways to provide for the training of regionally-based Community Workers to work with local women's groups in the N.W.T.

Women and Leadership
The Council has stated that the involvement of more women in political leadership is a priority issue. To this end Council staff are developing How To Get Into Politics kits for women, and have consulted with many

N.W.T. women on this issue. We are also monitoring current leadership and are looking at the issue of professional ethics at all levels.

Child Day Care
Council members have expressed concerns regarding the lack of adequate funding for the training of day care workers in the N.W.T. The Council has identified quality day care as a priority so that women can pursue employment or training opportunities if they wish, and be confident that their children are receiving good quality care. The Council continues to liaise with local and Territorial groups on this issue.

Reproductive Health
The Council monitored a number of reproductive health issues during 1990/91, including midwifery and new reproductive technologies. A brief was presented to the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, emphasizing basic reproductive health concerns such as the need for more public education on sexually transmitted diseases and family planning methods, and for policies and facilities which will allow women to give birth in their own communities.

Family Law Review
The Council continues to be ably represented on the Family Law Review Committee by Shelley Howell, a Yellowknife lawyer. Council members were concerned that the review process slowed considerably in 1990/91, but look forward to receiving a draft final report by July 1991.

The Council is also concerned that many women in the N.W.T. know little about the possibility of spousal and/or child support when a marriage relationship ends. The Council will therefore be working with other organizations to produce information materials on these subjects during 1991.

Photo: D. Mahoney

Sylvia Farrant, Vice-President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, addresses the members of the Status of Women Council of the N.W.T. and members of the public at a public meeting, Fort Smith, February, 1991.

P U B L I C A T I O N S

The following are available free from

The Status of Women Council of the N.W.T.
Box 1320, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

(403) 920-6177
Fax (403) 873-0285

N.W.T. Advisory Council on the Status of Women publications:

- *We Must Take Care of Each Other: Women Talk About Abuse*, March 1990 (English and Inuktitut)
- *Women At Work* A series of posters valuing women's work, January 1990 (English, South Slavey, and Inuktutit)
- *Brief to the Labour Standards Law Review Panel*, November 1989 (English only)
- *Brief to the Special Committee on Northern Economy*, March 1989 (English only)
- *Position Paper on Child Care in the N.W.T.*, December 1988 (English and Inuktitut)
- *Arts and Crafts: Women and Their Work*, August 1988 (Full report in English; Summary report in English and Inuktitut)
- *Child Care Fact Sheets*, July 1988 (English and Inuktitut)
- *Visions For Women: Partners For Change*, Report on Rankin Inlet Conference, March 1988 (English only)
- *Pornography in the N.W.T.*, June 1986 (English and Inuktitut)
- *Northern Women Talk* (Back issues of the newsletter), Publication ended in mid-1988.
- Copies of Advisory Council Annual Reports are also available in English and Inuktitut.

Status of Women Council of the N.W.T. publications:

- *Brief to the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies*, September 1990 (English only)
- *Brief to the Judicial Inquiry Into the Conduct of Territorial Court Judge R.M. Bourassa*, June 1990 (English only)

Additional copies of this Annual Report are also available.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

KENNETH W. WOWK
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
P.O. BOX 758
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
X1A 2N6

TEL: (403) 873-2993
FAX: (403) 873-8896

To the Members of
Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories

I have audited the balance sheet of the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories as at March 31, 1991, and the statements of revenue and expenditures for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I have conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at March 31, 1991, and the results of its operation for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Kenneth W. Wowk
Certified General Accountant
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
May 2, 1991

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement 1 – Balance Sheet
March 31, 1991

ASSETS

Current	
Cash	$4,593

LIABILITIES

Current	
Accounts Payable	$4,048
Deferred Revenue (Note 2)	409
	4,457

MEMBERS' EQUITY

Benefits Fund (Note 3)	
Opening Balance	—
Transfer from Operating Funds (per statement 2)	136
Closing Balance	136
	$4,593

Approved:

Director

Statement 2 – Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the year Ended March 31, 1991

	Actual	Budget
REVENUE		
Contribution – Government of the NWT	$303,000	$303,000
Less Deferred Revenue	(409)	—
	302,591	303,000
EXPENDITURES		
Advertising	10,595	2,000
Books and Periodicals	2,567	3,000
Capital Assets	3,313	—
Conferences Fees	1,825	700
Maternity and Parental Leave Fund (Note 3)	136	—
Office	5,039	6,400
Printing	4,358	8,000
Professional Fees	2,750	1,000
Research Contracts	31,113	28,700
Telephone	5,831	6,000
Travel - Community	4,895	12,000
- Council	61,864	32,400
- Other	9,414	6,000
Wages and Benefits	158,891	196,800
	302,591	303,000
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	$ —	$ —

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – March 31, 1991

Note 1: Accounting Policies
Capital expenditures are considered to be an expense in the period of acquisition.

Note 2: Deferred Revenue
Deferred Revenue is unexpended contributions during the fiscal period that is transferred by agreement into the subsequent period.

Note 3: Benefits Fund
The Council, under its contribution agreement, is allowed to create a Maternity and Parental Leave Benefit Fund, using 25% of the annual unexpended contributions.

Note 4: Establishment of the Council
The Consolidation of Status of Women Council Act, S.N.W.T. 1990(1).c.6. was proclaimed in force on April 4, 1990 by SI-006-90 by the Government of the Northwest Territories.